



THE NOE VALLEY VOICE



Having an acre of land to build on is a rare treat in this city. But rarer still is the magnificent mansion that millionaire ad man Robert Pritikin plans to build at this site on the border between Noe Valley and Glen Park.

Photo by Charles Kennard

Ad Man's Mansion— *Chi-chi* on Chenery St.

By Steve Steinberg

Robert Pritikin will make no compromises when it comes to his living conditions. He wants the pleasures of the countryside joined with the convenience and stimulation of the city. He demands spectacular views and the best weather San Francisco has to offer. And he intends to house an opulent lifestyle in a \$2 million-plus mansion on the borderline of Noe Valley and Glen Park.

Pritikin, a millionaire advertising executive, author, musician, and hotelier, has designed and will soon construct a grand villa on an acre of tree-shaded land behind a pioneer homestead at 43-49 Chenery St. (next to Fairmount School). Why build a dream house in the heart of a very middle-class neighborhood? To

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Another Round on Rent Control

Tenants and Landlords Go Measure for Measure

By R. C. Binstock

Do you dread making your monthly rent payment? Are you spending more than your mother said you should on an apartment, flat or house? You're not alone. Many San Francisco tenants are in the same tight spot.

As the city has grown and changed over the last decade and a half, renters have found themselves reaching deeper into their pockets. A recent industry survey ranked San Francisco third out of 40 American cities in the cost of a mid-sized apartment, behind only Boston and New York.

In an effort to keep rents within reach, San Francisco enacted a rent control ordinance in June of 1979. As a follow-up, the board of supervisors voted last month

on two measures designed to make controls even more stringent. Though both were passed, the more controversial of the pair was vetoed by Mayor Dianne Feinstein.

The first, approved by Feinstein, reduces the limit on annual rent increases from 7 percent to between 4 and 7 percent, depending on the rate of inflation. Prices have risen less than 4 percent in the last year, so under the new law, effective immediately, 1984 rent hikes will be limited to 4 percent.

The second measure, vetoed by the mayor, received more attention from landlords, tenants and the press. It would have implemented "vacancy control" by imposing a 14 percent limit on rent raises when an apartment became vacant. The existing law places no limits on rents

landlords can charge new tenants. (Neither the current ordinance nor the new laws impose controls on owner-occupied buildings of four units or less.)

Rent control advocates expected the annual limit change to pass easily, and they weren't disappointed. It won 9 to 1 on the board's first reading Jan. 9, with only Supervisor Quentin Kopp voting against. (Supervisor Richard Hongisto, a landlord, abstained from voting on the advice of the city attorney.) On the second reading, eight days later, the vote was 9 to 0, with Kopp absent.

The vacancy control provision, however, faced stiffer opposition, especially from property owners' organizations, such as the Coalition for Better Housing. Such groups had hinted at political retribution for "yes" votes, including with-

drawal of backing for future mayoral candidacies and support of the proposed reduction in the number of supervisors. But in a surprise move, Kopp abandoned his anti-control stance and supported vacancy control in a 7 to 3 passing vote.

Supervisor Harry Britt, the primary force behind the measures, said after the first reading that Kopp's move was "quite significant. Several members were influenced by his vote." He noted that Kopp would be absent from the second reading and that the majority would try to sway the three who had voted against vacancy control, particularly Supervisor John Molinari.

"If we get eight votes, I'll be very optimistic, though not completely confident," said Britt. "Every vote under eight will make it less likely that she'll sign." He said the issue had become "much more serious than the last time the mayor dealt with it," and that many factors would play a part in Feinstein's final decision, including her "lame duck" status.

Efforts to increase the majority were unsuccessful. The vote after the second reading was the same—6 to 3 with Kopp absent. The failure of Molinari and Supervisors Louise Rennie and Bill Maher to change their votes probably spelled defeat for the legislation.

During the debate, the mayor's office maintained that Feinstein, a property owner, had been advised not to comment by the city attorney's office. In a meeting with rent control advocates the day after the second reading, however, Feinstein indicated that she would veto the vacancy control measure while approving the 4 percent rent hike limit. She expressed fears that vacancy control would

We're in the Neighborhood For Love

By Jane Super

Does romance still exist in 1984? It does in Noe Valley. Just ask Ralph Turner, a local plumber whose idea for Valentine's Day is "filling a basket with flowers, wine and cheese and heading off to Douglass Park." Or talk to another plumber, Paul Yugoff, who has a more mysterious suggestion for a place to rendezvous, "Conan's Cave," which he says is located somewhere around Sanchez and 23rd.

"Valentine's Day is a day of love," says Joe Mullan, semi-retired musician



Photo by Joel Abramson

Bill Jones and Carky Kern hold a Valentine's Day dress rehearsal for 2-year-old Jasan. Come Feb. 14, he'll be sipping his champagne with a babysitter.

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• Rent Control •

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discourage construction of new housing in the city. The next day, Jan. 26, she vetoed vacancy controls.

The pro-control majority on the board considered attempting to override Feinstein's veto, but ultimately tabled the idea. Since eight votes were necessary to override, Molinari, Maher or Renne would have had to switch positions. All three had expressed the belief that vacancy control was "unenforceable" and indicated that a change in their position was unlikely.

Tenants' groups announced plans to bring suit against the mayor, charging that her action on the bill constituted conflict of interest. But observers considered it unlikely that such a suit would actually be filed.

Max Selva, a Noe Valley realtor whose office is a 24th Street landmark, wasn't surprised by the board's votes. After the first reading and Kopp's surprise switch, he thought that the mayor might approve both measures. But in his opinion, if a referendum were held, controls would be defeated. "Long-term tenants understand that rent control is to their disadvantage."

Supervisor Britt, on the other hand, feels that controls are essential to protect the city's residents, particularly single-income families, the elderly, and single people with low to moderate incomes. "The focus of my commitment is to work with somewhat marginal people, to help them organize and have a political effect," he says.

He's also concerned about recent land-use decisions by developers and the threat of unchecked expansion in downtown San Francisco. "What we're really trying to do is slow down the process of gentrification," says Britt. "The primary support for this legislation has come from middle-class tenants—the others are already priced out."

A rent control advocate who asked that neither she nor the tenants' organi-



Illustration by Susan Kopp

"IT'S A PETITION TO PROHIBIT COMPANY OWNERS FROM BEING SPOKESMEN IN THEIR OWN COMMERCIALS."

zation she worked for be identified offered a blunt opinion. "To be honest," she said, "we see a lot of cases in which the landlord obviously doesn't give a damn about the tenant. Maybe if tenants have some rights, owners will begin to see the relationship as a two-way proposition."

To opponents of rent control, this assessment is unfair. They claim that rent restrictions have created an adversary situation where none existed. "Before rent control, owners would never request excessive increases," says Selva. "Rent control awoke landlords to the fact that they could raise the rent." He feels that the relationship between owners and renters has deteriorated. "Landlords were always concerned with their tenants' welfare. They rarely felt that the tenants were their enemies."

Owners also argue that rent controls and vacancy control in particular discourage capital improvements and make ownership so unprofitable that apartments will be taken off the market. "San Francisco will move back into a depression type economy" if vacancy con-

trols are enacted, says Selva. He recalls that before rent control, his business handled about 10 rentals a month. "Now it's down to two or three at most."

Whether you're for or against rent control, the issue will be with us for a long time. A constitutional challenge to the city's existing rent control ordinance will soon be heard in Superior Court. Brought by a Nob Hill landlord, the suit claims that the law is in violation of the Sherman Antitrust Act. In 1982, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that municipalities were not immune from antitrust actions. Since then, rent control experts have expected an antitrust challenge.

Neither Selva nor Britt expects the suit to win. "It would be wishful thinking to hope that anything can come out of it," says Selva. Britt calls the suit "silly," adding that the city is sure that its legislation "falls within the guidelines." He affirms that rent control is an issue of the future. "Tenants must have some kind of ongoing protection against unjust evictions and rent increases." Even if the housing situation here improves, he says, "I don't see rent control going away." □

THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

1021 Sanchez Street
San Francisco 94114

The Noe Valley Voice is an independent newspaper published monthly except in January and August. It is distributed free in Noe Valley and vicinity. Mail subscriptions are available at a cost of \$10/year (\$5/year for seniors). The Noe Valley Voice is a member of Media Alliance and Artists in Print.

Editorial: 821-3324 (PM)

Distribution: 861-5570

Display Advertising:
Call Steve at 239-1114

Advertising Deadline for
March 1984 issue: Feb. 20
Editorial Deadline: Feb. 20
Class Ads: See Page 19

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Star Bakery Gives Church Street Its Daily Bread

By Suzanne Scott

Walking into Star Bakery on a weekday morning is like walking into a neighborhood bar. Everybody knows each other's name, and at first it's hard to tell who the bakery employees are. Some of the customers come in the door, march straight behind the counter, grab their own mug and help themselves to coffee.

But once you spot Clare Tamony in her red smock, white hair and big smile, you know who runs the place. The minute someone walks in, causing the little bells on the door to ring, Tamony has a tissue in her hand, poised to pick up a raisin scone or croissant.

"I know what they want as soon as they come in," says Tamony, who's been working behind the counter at Star for 13 years. "I'm terrible with names," she claims, but she and most of her customers are on a first-name basis and she is well known around the Church and 29th Street area. Kids on the J-Church often point to her and say, "That's the Bakery Lady!"

Tamony even has pet names for the different shifts of regulars at Star. She calls the early morning commuters—those arriving at 6 a.m.—her "young boys," and the women who come in after daily mass at St. Paul's Church are "my ladies." The after-school "doughnut crowd" takes over the bakery from 3 to 4 p.m. "They're going to be very disappointed today," she said. "I'm out of glazed."

Tamony says she hasn't noticed too many changes in the routine of her Irish customers. Like many of them, she was born here, went to school at St. Paul's, and still lives only a block away. Most of the old-time merchants have survived the slow evolution of Church Street, and

there's "still a lot of family" in the neighborhood.

Star Bakery was established in 1899 and has had only three owners in the 85 years of its existence. Baker Eugene Rauscher, who owned the shop for 35 years from 1946 to 1981, remembers the original Mr. Stelling of Stelling's Market across the street: "When I was a kid, he was a little old man."

Rauscher, whose father was also a baker, still works with the Mixmasters in the back of the shop and estimates that at least 400 people come in daily. "It's the oldest established bakery in the same location in San Francisco," he said.

The decor of Star is somewhat of an anachronism itself. The outside of the building is covered with tiny brown tiles with little gold ones mixed in, making the bakery's name seem appropriate when the sun hits it right. Inside are five round formica tables embedded with gold and black glitter. There are sheer white curtains, straight out of grandma's house, on the front window.

On the wall behind the cash register, there are photographs of kids, but they're not Tamony's grandchildren as you'd expect. They are pictures of the children of regular customers. "These are my kids," said Tamony. "They're getting so big since I've put up those pictures."

Unlike newer bakeries with coordinated color schemes and modern fixtures, Star's blue-green dinette chairs clash with the red rug and pink cake boxes and are shifted around a lot, depending on who is sitting where and how crowded it is. The most coveted table appears to be the big one next to the front window. When the group of regulars from St. Paul's arrives, those-in-the-know leave the preferred table to let



Photos by Tom Wach

Clare Tamony is the "Bakery Lady" of Church Street, shared equally by her "ladies" from St. Paul's and the afterschool "doughnut crowd" at Star Bakery.

them sit there.

Richard Kurz, the current owner of Star, arrives at work at 4 a.m. and often continues for 12 hours. This is the first bakery he has owned, but he's been working in bakeries since he was 14. Kurz apprenticed in Germany, where he was trained in Italian and German baking, but has picked up different specialties in bakeries all over the United States. "I make the best of each bakery," he said.

One of Star's oldest recipes is for Irish soda bread. There is a large plastic multi-colored sign advertising it above the cookie counter. "Some bakers have copied it," said Tamony, "but ours is the original and the best. We make it every day."

Irish tea and jam are also daily specialties, but St. Patrick's Day "is the day no-

body should miss," Tamony said. "It's like Christmas," chimed in Kurz. Irish fruitcakes and shamrock cookies are baked, Irish music is played, and green decorations are put up. Tamony is hoping all the hoopla will eventually convert her boss to be Irish. "His middle name is Patrick," she laughed.

There are day-to-day rituals as well. Birthdays are celebrated (with a torte) and deaths are mourned. One regular observed, "We know everybody. We like it because we were raised here. You always see someone you know."

"No matter what part of town you're in, people know about Star," said Kurz. "They start talking and talking: 'Oh, Star Bakery! My grandmother always brought me down for cookies.'"

"It's like family."

□



Richard Kurz, owner of Star Bakery for the last three years and a baker since his teens, knows that the personal touch is important to his "family" of regulars.

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Valentine's Day

Continued from Page 1

and Noe Valley native. He would like to "exchange vows of love" at a dinner with as many family members present as possible.

An intimate dinner for two is bartender and filmmaker Kim Robinson's plan, after visiting 24th Street to get "a couple of bottles of wine, a burgundy and a beaujolais perhaps, steaks and some goat cheese."

Waitress and student Corky Kern has high expectations for February 14th. "My Valentine's Day list is longer than my Christmas list was!" She and Bill Jones have already planned a romantic day which includes a fresh cracked crab and champagne picnic in bed and a babysitter for Jason.

Others don't ask for so much. One of them, a local bartender who is over 65 and prefers to remain anonymous, would be pleased as punch if "fifty or a hundred beautiful girls would come in while I was tending bar."

Valentine's Day still has meaning for children, also, and if 10-year-old Maryanne Mozaffari were a shopowner, she would give candy and valentines to all of the kids who came into her store.

Justine Roditti, who is 11 1/4, feels the spirit of the holiday too, but her love is not unconditional. If she had a boyfriend, she would buy him a big box of candy, "but only if he's skinny."

One thing for sure about Valentine's Day, it should be the one day you can find a parking spot easily on 24th Street. Judging by the vast majority of responses to the Voice's informal survey of the neighborhood, the most romantic way to spend February 14th in Noe Valley is simply at home with the lights dimmed and the phones unplugged. □

Photo by Joel Abramson



An after-dinner kiss beside the fire sets the mood for love, safe inside a foggy evening at 24th Street's Palm Grill.

Merchants Get What They Wanted For Christmas

By Annie Stuart

Economic recovery was the byword at the end of 1983, and it was a reality for at least some Noe Valley merchants, now basking in the afterglow of the best holiday sales ever.

"The last two years were difficult and we went into the red for the first time," said Cathexis owner Susan Thompson, "but this year I'm breathing a lot easier."

Cathexis' December sales were among the best in 12 years of business, she added.

Thompson's wasn't the only success story. Several longtime Noe Valley merchants had record Christmas sales, mirroring a nationwide phenomenon, the strongest holiday season for retailers since 1977. Nationally, retailers experienced a 15 percent gain in holiday sales over last year.

Record sales took many shop owners by surprise, however. Three weeks after Christmas, Common Scents co-owner Linda Ramey was spending a lot of her time on the phone, ordering soaps, shampoos and oils to restock a severely depleted inventory. Kidstuff also reported they had sold out of a number of items.

Though merchants did well across the board on a variety of items—from \$2 ornaments to \$60 boots—sweaters and earrings were top sellers for Gladrags, teddy bears were big stuff at Kidstuff, and celestial music was a winning item at Star Magic, especially for those aware of its stress-reducing value.

Theories about why it was such a good season were as plentiful as the shops lining 24th Street.

"People started to loosen up." "There was a greater sense of security." "People were tired of not spending their money."

These were Noe Valley merchants' most frequent explanations for excellent sales.

"Neighborhood shopping is in fashion," said Pantry employee Michael Philben, adding that many Noe Valley residents want to help the community shops survive and avoid the inconvenience of shopping downtown.

Many merchants said they believed the nationwide drop in inflation and unemployment had boosted consumer confidence. U.S. employment grew by 3.6 million in 1983, and U.S. Chamber of Commerce projections for 1984 and 1985 are favorable as well.

A few felt that the media influenced spending habits, both by projecting optimism about the economy and by highlighting the threat of nuclear war. Spending money "like there is no tomorrow" is more than a shopworn phrase, in the opinion of some.

The feeling of hopeful anticipation, however, was likely the predominant one in Noe Valley during the Christmas season. And there's a good chance this wishful thinking was inspired by Star Magic's Star Queen.

Every Christmas the Star Queen pays a visit to the shop, offering shoppers the chance to make a wish. She assures them their wish will come true if they can only keep their vision. When she waves her crystal wand, the effect is magical: eyes sparkle and the room is filled with hope and wonder. Merchants as well as shoppers must have kept their vision this year. □

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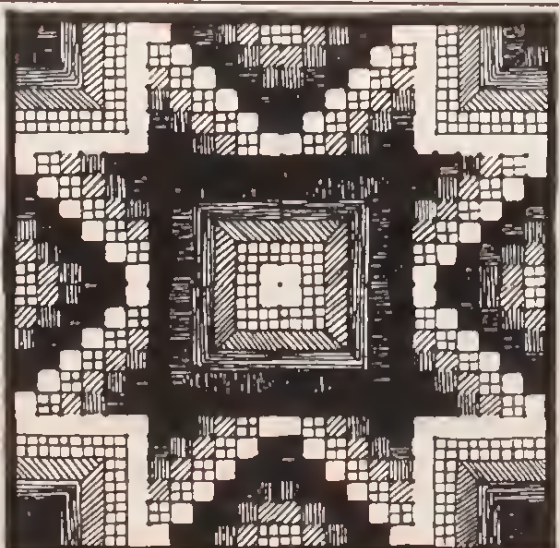
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Historia

It's time to dig up your roots in the attic and carry them to the Fifth Annual Noe Valley History Festival, being celebrated with a month-long exhibit at the Noe Valley Library and an open house there on Sunday, Feb. 26, from 1 to 4 p.m. The festival's purpose is to generate interest in collecting, preserving and sharing neighborhood history in photographs, newspapers, diaries, documents and personal recollections of long-time residents. This year's emphasis is on schools, past and present, so bring your school pictures and yearbooks, or come look at other people's. The library is located at 451 Jersey St.

Noe Shows

Two upcoming shows at the Gallery Sanchez in the Noe Valley Ministry are waiting for your artistic participation. "Black and White" is a multi-media show open to all but with one restriction: all work submitted *must* be in black and white. You can enter one or two pieces for a single fee of \$5, and receiving dates are March 1 and 2 from 2 to 7 p.m. All sculpture must be provided with stands, and the show, which runs March 3 - April 13, will be insured.

An open group show titled "From the Spirit" will celebrate the Ministry's becoming an "official" Presbyterian church. Artists may submit work for this show in any medium, but each piece should reflect its creator's perception of the idea of "spirit," which should also be described in an accompanying paragraph.

Kit Cameron, who runs the gallery, notes that the theme does not necessarily have any religious or doctrinaire context in the show.

"From the Spirit," running April 22 (Easter Sunday) to May 30, has no entry fee and will also be insured. Call Cameron about either show at the Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St., at 282-2317 afternoons.

Study to the Max

The S.F. Unified School District will host a conference for parents this Saturday, Feb. 4, called "Invest in Your Child's Future." The topics do not include Treasury bonds, but will cover alternative schools, special education, gifted programs, bilingual education, and transfer procedures. Representatives from various colleges will also be available to provide information about admissions and financial aid.

Childcare and parking will be available for this free conference, scheduled from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Everett Middle School, 450 Church St. For more information call Gloria Escobar at 565-9450.

SHORT TAKES



Photo by Joel Abramson

It was a long goodbye for the Red Iris Gallery, with repeated liquidation sales of a fantastic variety of merchandise, but it's finally all gone and the space is up or grabs.

Red Iris Gallery Nipped in Bud

By Rick Garner

The Red Iris Gallery, located on the corner of 24th and Noe, is officially closed after several weeks of going-out-of-business sales. The 18-month-old business, which was open to artists (many from Noe Valley) on a commission basis, wound up a "complete failure," according to owner Dr. Michael McFadden.

"Many fine artists were represented," said McFadden, but most customers were unwilling to pay more than \$50 for a piece of art. Many pieces were sold at less than fair value, he added, but some artists had unrealistic expectations regarding selling prices.

In past months, the Red Iris had been stocked with an increasingly eclectic selection of arts and crafts. McFadden said he often changed the merchandise,

hoping to attract new business. Although the gallery had technically closed as of the first of the year, the shop continued to have weekend sales in order to liquidate its inventory of oil paintings, photographs of movie stars, lion cubs and the Golden Gate Bridge, hand-painted T-shirts, old jewelry and antique postcards.

McFadden, who started the business to provide income for his children's education, has no plans to sell the building. He has been approached by See's Candies, a gourmet popcorn business, and a hot dog concession, he said.

"I would like to see a business that would improve the area," said McFadden, who has a long-established medical practice on 24th Street. He welcomes suggestions from the community regarding what would be a beneficial business for Noe Valley residents. □

To Russia, With Love

Noe Valley may be a warm spot in the nationwide effort to thaw the Cold War. At a public meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 7, at St. Paul's School, contributions will be accepted for a community portrait which is part of the Odessa-San Francisco Pairing Project. (Odessa is our "similar" city in the Soviet.) The portrait will include maps, photos and drawings reflecting the spirit of San Francisco and a brief letter "expressing our desire to make friends with the Odessans because we know that friends can solve problems and resolve conflicts peacefully."

Ground Zero, the nuclear education organization which is directing this nationwide effort, says that the first component of the portrait will be sent off to Odessa on Feb. 23. Subsequent mailings will concentrate on neighborhoods, schools or citywide groups, and will be sent at three-month intervals. The Feb. 7 meeting starts at 7:30 p.m. at St. Paul's, 317 29th St., and you can check this out by calling Martha Chesley at 821-2861 or Peggy O'Grady at 285-7509.

Fair Warning

Merle Goldstone has dispelled foggy rumors by stating that this year's San Francisco Fair & Exposition, displaced from the Moscone Center by the Democrats, will resurface June 14-17 at Fort Mason. She wants our readers to dream up some contests for the fair, and will reward the most imaginative with cash prizes of \$300, \$200, and \$100 "on the basis of originality, diversity, and ability to be produced." (Last year's winner was a "Fog-Calling Contest.") Submit your ideas in writing by Feb. 14 to Goldstone at the fair office, 540 Van Ness Ave., SF 94102.

Making More Music

Wildly acclaimed vocalese artist and Noe Valley resident Bobby McFerrin will be singing for his friends and neighbors March 3 as part of the Noe Valley Music Series.

Rounding out the month of March are the Electric Guitar Quartet on the 10th, Larry Kassin and flute and company on the 17th, Idris Ackamoor and Rhodessa Jones on the 24th, and Michael Smollens on the 31st. And the following weeks will feature Teresa Trull, Alex de Grassi, Barbra Higby, and the Wykeham Singers.

All concerts take place at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St., at 8:15 p.m., and you can find out more from Kassin at 641-1359 or Jeff Kaliss at 285-8844.



Women's Plays

Lilith, which has long stood at center stage in the women's theater movement, has just launched a monthly playreading series. This month's play (Feb. 26, 7:30 p.m., at Valencia Rose, 766 Valencia St.) will be Denise Springer's *Running the Angry American River Race*, a humorous look at the differing attitudes of two recently widowed women.

If you have a play you'd like to read in the series, mail two copies to 3543 18th St., SF 94110, or ask for more details by calling 861-4221.

All About Arthritis

Everything you wanted to know about arthritis will be offered in a self-help course at several Bay Area locations starting soon. Topics include nutrition, medication, working with physicians, exercise and relaxation. The classes will convene for two hours weekly for six weeks. The fee is only \$10, and some scholarships are available. You'll have to pre-register, so you should call the Arthritis Foundation at 673-6882 for an application.



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• Pritikin Mansion •

Continued from Page 1

Pritikin the answer is obvious. "There is nobody in San Francisco who has a house on what is virtually an acre of land. It simply doesn't exist. The best of all possible worlds, obviously, is to have a gorgeous, park-like setting around your house... and be in the middle of San Francisco."

Besides affording enough open space to roam around on, Pritikin says his site has great weather, is relatively free of fog, and looks out on a panoramic skyline. Pritikin drew up the general design for his house, but has hired the San Francisco architectural firm of Book and Flannery to implement his concept.

His plans call for a garden pathway, surrounded by fountains and sculpture,

leading up to the front door. The entrance in turn will open up on a "grand foyer...reminiscent of the Paris Opera entrance." Pritikin felt he had no choice but to create such a lavish hall because he did not want a vast number of rooms. Consequently, he had to transform a large amount of space into "the world's greatest entranceway."

The house will have most of its living accommodations on the second floor: the master bedroom, an art studio, kitchen, living and dining rooms. The house will also have servants' quarters, a guest room, numerous bathrooms and, as icing on the cake, an indoor-outdoor swimming pool with a retractable roof. Huge arched windows facing the Bay Bridge and downtown will dominate the building's facade.

Pritikin calls his design "tailored and classic" as well as eclectic. He says he does not want the house to look modern

but rather as if it had been built 100 years ago. Asked why he craves such a palatial setting, he says, "It's fun to dwell in marble halls." He hopes to move in this summer.

Originally from Chicago, Pritikin is perhaps best known as the ad man who created the Grodins and Hastings clothing stores' billboard campaigns. He heads his own advertising firm, Pritikin-Eglin Productions, and has put his views on the how-to's of successful marketing into a book, *Christ Was an Ad Man*.

He also bills himself as America's foremost concert saw player and has even produced a record album entitled *There's a Song in My Saw*, in which he plays his renditions of such popular favorites as "The Last Time I Sawed Paris," "Moonlight Sawnata," and "When You Wish Upon a Saw." He claims to have stroked his saw with the likes of Liberace and Johnny Cash and says his instrument has been signed by Leonard Bernstein.

Pritikin also owns and operates the Mansion, an unusual Victorian hotel in Pacific Heights. The hotel attracted a lot of controversy at one time, forcing Pritikin to wage a 2½-year zoning battle with the city before he won permission to keep the establishment open.

No stranger to luxury, Pritikin currently lives in a Pacific Heights apartment building that he owns. His own split-level unit, once featured in *Playboy* magazine, has mirrored ceilings and walls, a grand piano, paintings and sculpture, and a mini-swimming pool in the back.

Pritikin found the Chenery Street property through a classified ad last year. The land on which he intends to build is fronted by an 1864 residence that formerly belonged to the Standley family, San Francisco pioneers who operated a commercial laundry on the premises. The house was later converted to an

apartment building and is now in some disrepair. According to Pritikin, one of the units, presently unoccupied, retains its original gaslight fixtures, never having been wired for electricity.

Pritikin plans to remodel the building, keeping its essential character, and then rent out its five units. He also intends to build an underground parking garage for tenants. A dilapidated barn in the rear of the property will have to be torn down to make way for Pritikin's house, which should be largely invisible from the street.

Pritikin encountered no opposition to his building plans from the San Francisco Planning Commission and managed to win the support of his future neighbors, some of whom had feared that condominiums or an apartment complex might be built on the property. Evelyn Kaiser, who lives at 44 Chenery, called Pritikin's proposed home "an improvement to the neighborhood." She said Pritikin had invited neighbors on a tour of the property and had explained his plans to them.

Another neighbor, Ed Horan, agrees with Kaiser, saying it's "wonderful that someone has that kind of faith in an area." But another resident, who did not wish to be identified, said it was "ridiculous" for Pritikin to build his house next to a grade school in Glen Park "where it is so middle class." The neighbor also expressed fears about curiosity seekers coming into the area to catch a glimpse of Pritikin's home.

Pritikin does not intend to cloister himself behind the walls of his mansion once it is built. He called the Noe Valley-Glen Park area a "perfect blend of solid Americans," a neighborhood "much more interesting than Pacific Heights."

"Is one going to leave one's house and enjoy the bountiful pleasures of the neighborhood?" he asked rhetorically. "How could you resist?" □

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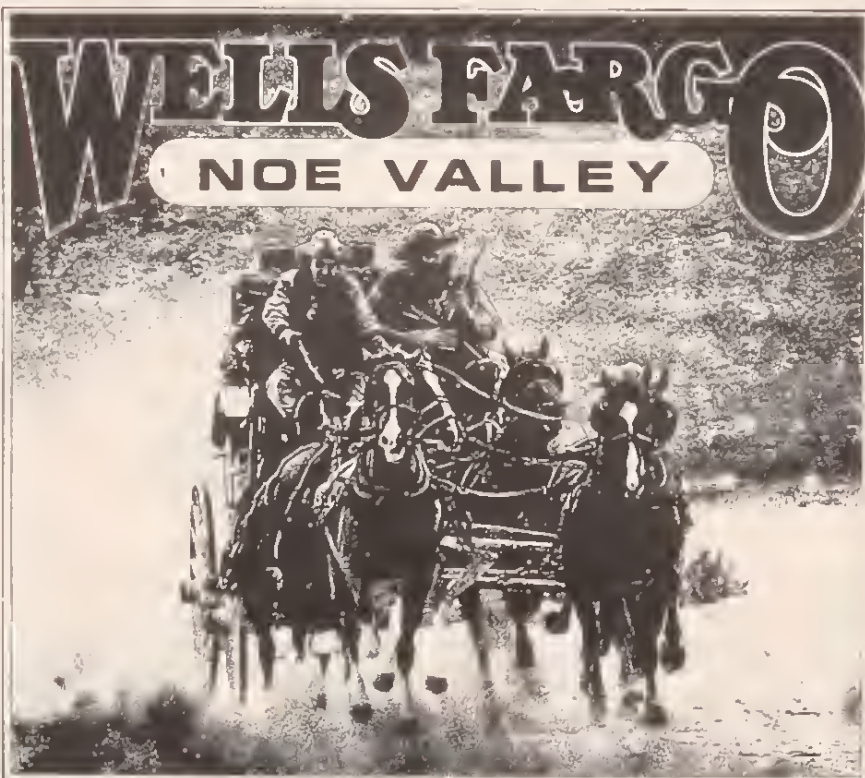
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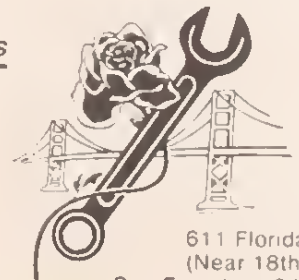
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Puppet's Progress, too

Claflin's Music Brings It All Home

By Jeff Kaliss

"The one thing I don't want to feel when I'm old is that I didn't do something," sighs singer-songwriter Willy Claflin. He just passed his 40th birthday, and his performances this spring in Hawaii, Massachusetts, and here in Noe Valley seem like the perfect way to celebrate a mid-life crisis.

The perennially youthful and handsome Claflin will have plenty to do at his performance in Noe Valley, scheduled for March or April at the Noe Valley Ministry. For one thing, he'll be playing his guitar and singing, as he has for the past 25 years. For another, he'll be getting his audience involved in international oral history. And for yet another, he'll be introducing a host of hilarious puppet friends, including Albert the Alligator, Maynard the Moose, and Sirius the Dog Star.

Actually, Claflin has been keeping up a brisk pace since blowing out the candles on Jan. 5. He flew back to his home in Cambridge, Mass., to work on his debut album, "Stones Along the Shore," which will be released later this year. While there he took the opportunity to perform at Passim, one of the clubs responsible for what he sees as a renaissance of the folksy coffeehouse movement.

It was a bit of a nostalgic trip for Claflin: Passim occupies the site of the old Club 47 where many a long-hair gathered in the mid-sixties to sip mild intoxicants and pick up licks from Joan Baez, Jose Feliciano, Jim Keweenaw, and Geoff and Maria Muldaur. In this setting, Claflin, the son of a state legislator, decided to forsake his grooming at Phil-

lips Exeter Academy and Harvard and abandon his father's dream of continuing the patrilineal legal tradition.

Instead of going on to law school, Claflin started teaching in a Cambridge "open classroom" where "I became a kid again." He made use of his guitar as an instructional tool and even got his young students to compose songs. To help support his own developing songwriting habit, he also played coffeehouses and ran a Dail-A-Fantasy service funded by "an anonymous benefactor."

Towards the close of the sixties, Claflin and his friends began to think that the end of the world was coming. The coffeehouses were losing their steam, and Claflin was unwilling to perform at bars "because I depended a lot on people being able to hear my lyrics." Claflin and company decided to move north to Maine, settling in a 150-year-old house in the coastal town of Blue Hill.

With his son enrolled in a collective school, Claflin felt he was recapturing some of his own childhood spent in the woods of Wolfeboro, N.H. He became involved with the nearby Haystack Mountain School of Crafts, where blacksmiths, weavers, potters, painters, glassblowers and woodworkers would gather on pine-scented evenings to sing their hearts out.

Claflin formed many life-long friendships at Blue Hill and Haystack, but the scene started to sour somewhat as the seventies wore on. Many of the artists and intellectuals drifting north from megalopolis were "transient and drugged out," and the communal homestead took on the aura of a haunted house: wires buzzed, walls vibrated, and finally one Christmas morning a truck drove through the living room.

It was time for a return to Cambridge and "the security of teaching." For a while Claflin refrained from performing but kept his country memories fresh in his songwriting with ballads like "The Down East Cafe," a tale of two ghost lovers in an abandoned seaside eatery. A divorce in 1977 gave him more material and an excuse to hide out in Hawaii, where he got hired as an artist-in-residence at the Volcano Art Center, a sort of Hawaiian Haystack.

Over the next few years he hopped from Pacific to Atlantic, retaining his base in Cambridge while succumbing more and more to "the gambling aspect of performing." His Maine mates had spread themselves across the nation, some of them settling in Noe Valley, which had "the flavor of the old Cambridge in the sixties." While visiting them, Claflin began scheduling Bay Area performances at places like the Katherine Delmar Burke School, the Cathedral School for Boys, and the Ecole Bilingue in Berkeley.

Although he didn't want to be known only as a children's entertainer, Claflin found that three-quarters of his entertainment earnings came from performances in primary and secondary schools. His way with kids made it easy to work pup-



Photo by Joel Abramson

Willie Claflin's puppet pals Sirius the Dog Star and Maynard the Moose allow him to extend his persona and communicate with kids, craftspersons and legislators.

pets into his act. Maynard Moose, a puppet who originally had a Down East (Maine coast) accent, was "always an inept reader" and therefore helped put young audiences at ease. Later, Maynard became superbly inept at telling fairy tales, somehow managing to have the handsome prince riding into the happy ending on a "snow-white moose." Albert the Alligator's high-flung harangues, amusing but incomprehensible, got him an appearance before the Hawaii House of Representatives.

Between puppets, Claflin's musical repertoire reflects his own travels through time and space. He remembers when the Weavers' folksy "On Top of Old Smokey" hit number one on the radio in 1953, only to be replaced the following year by Bill Haley's "Rock Around the Clock," and he feels comfortable in both idioms. In concert he likes to get nostalgia-soaked grown-ups and curious kids singing along with pop hits like "Charley Brown" and "Runaway," then move them up a few years with coffeehouse concoctions like "Come Back Baby" and "Washington at Valley Forge."

Audiences also like becoming part of Claflin's telling of folk tales, gleaned from the part-narrative, part-musical tradition of the Georgia Sea Islands and other close-knit cultures. His own compositions deal with everything that has caught his interest and imagination, from love and legend to loneliness and head lice. Crisp finger-picking and a sweet, vibrant tenor carry his delivery, and he is equally effective in modes of humor and sober soul-searching.

In House Resolution No. 117, the Hawaii legislature provided Claflin with perhaps his best capsule review, noting that he "leaves behind the memory of a committed, talented, life-loving, philosophical and creative man through his storytelling and songmaking."

Having given up teaching and his

Cambridge apartment, Claflin may finally be ready to accept himself as an artist. He looks forward to having his songs on vinyl, for sale at his concerts, including his debut Noe Valley appearance this spring. He's also writing a book about his "Haystack Tour of America." Sometime after Albert the Alligator's upcoming lecture at Boston University on "Clay and the Alchemical Transformation of Consciousness," Claflin would like to settle with his menagerie at a permanent home in Noe Valley, where he thinks, rightly, that he can stay young gracefully. □

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The Philosopher's Stone: a Meeting of Minds and Spirits

By Laura Castleberry

In the minds of the seekers and scientists of the Middle Ages, the "philosopher's stone" was that elusive substance that could transform metal into gold, a divine secret only attained by those with an honest soul and a pure heart.

But in the minds of many Noe Valley seekers of the New Age, The Philosopher's Stone is the name of an unusual bookstore on 24th Street, which has become a crossroads for a remarkable variety of ideas and interests.

In the 12 years of its existence, The Philosopher's Stone has grown from a collection of 700 mostly metaphysical books to an inventory of 10,000 works, covering philosophy, religion, music, art, poetry, mysteries, cookbooks, children's literature and science fiction.

To co-owner Francis Rath, "there's something [in the store] that can touch almost anyone who walks in and make him or her that much better a person." His partner, Ivan St. John, also likes the satisfaction of awakening "a sense of discovery" in a customer and "helping people in their personal quests."

The personal quests of the two owners and their employee Hal Hughes, an "unofficial partner," may offer a key to the store's success. To each, The Philosopher's Stone is not so much a bookstore as a way of life, and each has his own unique talents to contribute.

Rath, blessed with an eloquent, lilting voice and a countenance that lends itself to magical transformations, is a naturally gifted storyteller. He frequently gives readings at the shop, and his retelling of Tolkien's *Trilogy* has become an annual tradition. He and St. John will hold an all-day marathon reading of *Wind in the Willows* at their home in mid-February. (It will be a potluck affair, so contact the store for more information.)

One of Rath's best stories is about how The Philosopher's Stone came into being. One night he had a dream in which his mother and a close friend were quizzing him about his future plans. When they pressed him on his specific goals, the idea of a metaphysical bookstore leaped into his mind. "There was this big sort of explosion and fog and lightning bolts, and all of a sudden I saw the store—exactly as we have it now—and I saw the address, 4042 24th St."

Wasting no time, Rath went to the address the next day and told the owner of the furniture store that occupied the building that he understood he had decided to give up his business. "The owner said, 'Impossible. I only made up my mind last night.'" In a couple of hours, Rath obtained the necessary information and the store was his.

Six months later, in August 1971, The Philosopher's Stone was open for business. In three years, it moved to its present address at 3814 24th St.

"The lesson to be learned," said Rath, "is always trust your strong dreams—your important dreams."

It was several years before, in the 1960s, that Rath met St. John. They became acquainted when Rath stopped for dinner at the restaurant where St. John was working. They discovered that along with having the same birthday, they both loved reading and shared interests in metaphysics and psychic phenomena. St. John, a practicing medium, was gratified to be able to talk about his work with a kindred spirit. Their friendship continued and grew over the years, and their partnership in The Philosopher's Stone became a natural outgrowth.

St. John, who has been holding weekly seances for the past 15 years, is very disciplined and dedicated to his work. He is also very modest about any psychic powers he possesses. He has never considered it "a sign of being special or a sign of any kind of spirituality. In one sense it was never a big thing in my life—in the sense that it was always there. To me, it's no different than someone who can sing. I think everybody has different kinds of abilities and I think it's just something that I happen to have."

St. John has not always been metaphysically inclined, however. He now recalls with ironic amusement that when he lived in New York, "one of the things we used to do was go down and watch the freaks at the occult book store." St. John keeps this in mind when he notices someone in the store who appears uncomfortable. He makes a special effort to direct the person to those books which he or she might find more attuned to their interests. That twinkle in St. John's eye is there for a reason, though. He definitely has a mischievous side.

Although everybody takes part in the store's window displays, St. John seems to take particular delight in the whimsical tricks they play. This has, on occasion, gotten them into trouble. Like the time they placed *The Vegetarian Gourmet Cookbook* beside *The Secret Life of Plants*—there were those who failed to see the humor in this juxtaposition.

Another time when the window had been invaded by flying ants, St. John turned it into a kinetic display and let them fly around a cookbook called *Entertaining with Ants*.

Some of their less noticeable but equally puckish tricks involve the ghosts and spirits of long deceased authors. Writers who hated each other in real life may find themselves placed next to each other on the shelves, or authors who felt they never received the acclaim they deserved may be placed among the most celebrated authors in history. Those writers who always wanted to meet each other—but never had the opportunity—are united at last by the kindly elves at The Philosopher's Stone.

Of course, most of St. John's energy is spent on things of a more serious nature, like his seances and workshops. His mediumship has led to lectures at City College and San Francisco State, and what began as a magazine article on his work is now being made into a book by a Noe Valley writer.

He also conducts workshops on hermetics—how to use psychic energy for personal transformation—herbalism, and *The Egyptian Book of the Dead*. Many of his workshops have evolved out of needs expressed by friends or people who have



Photo by Marc Sullivan

Ivan St. John, left, is "pleased as punch" to be part of The Philosopher's Stone, while Francis Rath calls it "a lovely way to live." Together with Hal Hughes, they bring dedication and a sense of humor to their 24th Street bookstore.

come into the store. "The store itself works as a teacher in some ways for everyone involved. It's a place where a lot of ideas flow through, and this often helps to clarify one's own thinking."

Another thing that flows through the two rooms of The Philosopher's Stone on a regular basis is music provided by Hal Hughes, who's not only a bookworm but a talented musician and composer. It's easier to list the instruments Hughes *doesn't* play, but these are a few of those he does: fiddle, banjo, mandolin, guitar, trumpet, clarinet, piano and drums. He regularly plays with Ku Ku Ku, a new wave band, and the Gone City Rope Band, which features traditional music from all cultures and also some of his own compositions.

Hughes, who still sports a ponytail regardless of whether it's "in" or not, contributes his expertise in the field of science fiction as well as his abilities as a musician. His favorite sci-fi author, Philip Dick, used to be impossible to find outside of Europe, but thanks to Hughes, can now be found on the shelves of The Philosopher's Stone.

Hughes assists Rath and St. John in the selection of books and says, "One of the things we've tried to do in all areas is get the original source materials—the books that other people base their work

on. We stock books that keep their value and continue to be read."

The two best sellers are the *I Ching* and *Sexual Secrets*, but the new *Runes Book* is fast catching up. Here's a simple guide to the store's layout—classics and more general categories reside on the right side and the metaphysical and occult books dwell on the left, with the mysteries and cookbooks sprinkled in between. This arrangement is exactly opposite from the window displays, which feature general categories on the left and more esoteric ones on the right.

Asked about the shop's future, Rath replied, "Any small business survives and grows out of several factors, the most important of which is that the people involved love what they're doing." In that case, the three wise men at The Philosopher's Stone may have it made.

Rath: "It's long hours and not much return, but it's most rewarding and a lovely way to live."

St. John: "I've found something that I really like doing and it complements the other work that I'm doing. I'm pleased as punch that it exists."

Hughes: "It's a very important part of my life. There's not any clear boundary to it. In most ways it's like the job I'd spend the rest of my life looking for." □



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Well, I thanked you gravely, because
after all here in Oklahoma
the eye can get awfully hungry
and if the air went green without
warning, I'd probably stand there
like a fool and watch the world tear
itself apart, thinking beauty
was finally flash-flooding
the plain: I'd think it was a bloody
miracle and stare and gape
as trees uprooted and buildings
knifed across the helpless sky.

I've seen that green veil twice, now,
but both times were inconclusive
and in two days I'm going back
to earthquake country. Tonight
there are sheets of orchid lightning
and the arc-lit azaleas
stand too still. It's a tornado
warning, not a watch. We wait
for something to happen, maybe,
this time around. Flat prairie
didn't turn me on, but you did,
and more than one kind of weather
is hanging sullen fire in my brain.
I'm sorry we never made love,
I regret the tornado
that, like you, never came to lift
me and my silent house sky high.

© 1983 Lillian S. Robinson

Father Dream

I spilled the letters from the game:
Scrabble, it was
or some such excuse for us to spend
an hour together, a minute
it was my first apartment, you were in it
for the first time, a quarter of a century
younger,
my age, I knew words were trouble
& games could bring the ceiling down

I grabbed for a word to show you,
you reached around
& held my arm & did you tickle me
I don't know
only felt something swelling inside like a riddle

I gasped for breath until I had enough
to say don't Daddy Daddy stop
and I meant it.

© 1983 Douglas Michael Massing

Note: Poets Lillian S. Robinson and Douglas Michael Massing will be featured guests of the Noe Valley Poetry Series Sunday, Feb. 12, 7-8 p.m. The event takes place at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St.

KAELA AT SIXTY-TWO

*I feel like the survivor of suicides
that never happened. The miracle
of the loaves and fishes is nothing
to this woman: when has she not fed
multitudes? when has her bounty ever failed?
Yet, basted on the thick, coarse fabric of her life,
the words are slender ribbons, they slide away;
you cannot make them give more than she's ready
to let you take. It's not a matter, this time,
for ladles and maternal plenitude;
the woman who has fanned herself out
in nurturing all her days writes poems
about stones and predatory birds
or the stark bone under the acquiescent
flesh. It is here that she feeds herself.*

© 1982 Lillian S. Robinson

The inbound train always pulls to the end
of the platform.
I don't know west from east, bay from ocean,
away from home, love from possession,
fear from obligation, what it's like
to be hungry.

In dreams I shake him I break him
I bash him in the face.
In dreams he smiles, pulls a last
invisible card from his sleeve,
it's all OK. Waking

is one more precaution
I wouldn't have thought of, home
is a slow leak I can't quite place.

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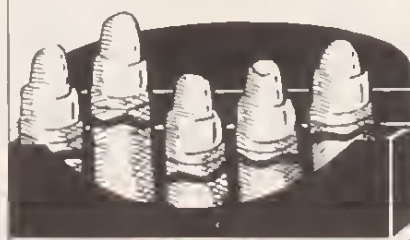
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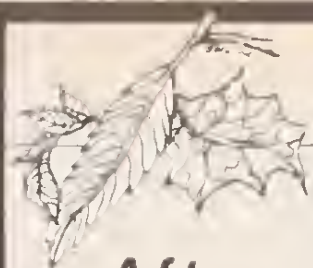
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— What's Up, Doc? —

A Danish-Modern Approach to Dentistry

By Jeff Kaliss

The charm and sparkle around Kira Eldemir's 24th Street dental office are better than laughing gas, so I'm not intimidated when she tells me to open wide. "I'll bawl you out if you haven't brushed and kiss and praise you if you have," she advises me in crisp Danish-American diction.

Eldemir takes a good look, then hands me the little mirror hanging next to the chair. "Can you see how nice your gums are becoming?" Content to take a rain check on the kiss, I note that my mouth is indeed in the pink. And much of the credit is due Eldemir, who has been persistent in educating me and the many others who benefit from her practice and her preaching. Eldemir likes this aspect of dentistry, which she came to at mid-life after law school in Denmark, marriage and the birth of her two sons here, and a graduate education in the social sciences at San Francisco State.

"I chose this profession because you're a Jack-at-a-lot-of-trades," she points out. "You're a plumber, you're an artist, you're a sculptor, you're a doctor, and you're a caretaker. You're all these things, and of course you're a teacher."

Although "it's not what I'm paid for," she estimates the teacher role takes about a third of her workday. With the rest of her time she needs to pull in between \$60 and \$80 an hour "in order to keep the office running."

Her costs include malpractice insurance, procurement and maintenance of equipment and materials (including gold and silver), the bank loan on the business, and overhead expenses such as the services of receptionist Ann Scott, who answers calls, makes appointments, and extracts payments from patients or their insurance companies.

After four years in Noe Valley, Eldemir is finally beginning to "make" money, thanks to extra income from dental associates Luisa Ambrosiano and Vivian Lee and orthodontist Britta Toner, who now share her space. Eldemir still keeps up a full patient-load and a 10-hour workday, and yet manages to direct everything in a relaxed style. She plans her days so she doesn't end up with a long run of difficult work on upper back teeth. "Actually, I'm sort of on the slow-poke side," she admits.

She also takes time to feed her mascot and pet rabbit, Bun-Bun, who hops around in the alley next to the office, and to share jokes and gossip (and Bun-Bun) with her patients and associates. "We find people jobs, we find people places to live, we find people tenants, we find people baby-sitters." Her former receptionist even found a couple of boy-friends among her customers. "This is



Kira Eldemir finds that doing dentistry in Noe Valley requires that she be a consummate performer as well as a caring practitioner.

almost Peyton Place," she laughs.

As for her dentistry, Eldemir is busy enough with legitimate fillings and repairs that she doesn't need to make up things to do in patients' mouths. If there's no decay and no persistent pain, her "conservative" approach is to leave the tooth in its natural state. For similar reasons, she'd rather do an inlay than a crown, even though the latter is more costly to the patient and easier for her.

Eldemir also recommends against purely cosmetic dentistry, even when her patients are stuck on an image of the Hollywood smile. "I'll do it as aesthetically pleasing as I can," she promises. "But look at my front teeth, how awful they are," she says, indicating tiny lines in the enamel. "Actually they're fine," she asserts, "and nobody's going to get close to those teeth, I tell you."

Patients who want their smiles straightened are free to consult orthodontist Toner after they've been cleaned and filled by Eldemir. Associate Ambrosiano, who headed UCSF's Dental Emergency Clinic for four years, is specially skilled in gum work and "also loves extractions." And fellow dentist Lee, notes Eldemir, "has the same preferences I have," and helps take care of her growing overload.

"It's not that I set out looking for females," Eldemir says of her all-woman team, though experience has taught her that "maybe females tolerate better being employees. It's in the basis of our relationship that nobody's out to get anybody."

The collective female image appeals

to women clients, but patients of both sexes appreciate relief from the sterile, severe stereotype they may have formed of male dentists. Gary Kazwara was Eldemir's "guinea pig" when she took her State Board exam and has been back regularly ever since. "Luisa [Ambrosiano] and Kira have a sense of humor about themselves that makes a patient feel a lot more at ease," he avows. "The bunny rabbit coming up on your lap helps too."

It also helps that Eldemir owns her building and has taken care to decorate her office imaginatively. The rabbit motif abounds, including a clock and a three-foot high Balinese-style bunny wearing a surgical mask. A pacifying Calder-like mobile is suspended from the ceiling, and the grateful mother of a patient has painted the walls with giant pastel butterflies. The recent addition of a Danish hench from Gump's enhances the waiting area and keeps Eldemir's childhood memories alive.

This honey mood fits well in the neighborhood, which in turn provides about half the patient-load and enough word-of-mouth recommendations to make up most of the other half. Eldemir and her colleagues appreciate the close-knit nature of the community, epitomized by two families which contain four generations of patients each. Lee, who maintains a second practice in the East Bay, finds Noe Valley folk to be "responsible and friendly" by comparison. They tend to be more timely, she says, both in keeping their appointments and paying their bills.

"I have it very easy," adds Eldemir, "in that people here are verbal and know the names of drugs," and thus know how to take care of themselves. At the start of her practice, though, she was occasionally heset by patients who feigned dental emergencies (and even underwent extractions) in order to get narcotics. Now-

adays, she avoids dispensing heavy drugs and finds other ways to deal with pain. "Pain has two aspects to it: how you sense it and how you react to it," she explains. "Some drugs take the pain away, and others twist your mind so you react to it differently."

In the latter regard, she still gets calls from would-be patients whose first question is, "Do you give nitrous?" Her answer is that she'd like to do away with the gas entirely. "I don't have as good a time as you do," she once complained when she was forced to use it on me. In addition to interfering with her working comfort, nitrous oxide is extremely expensive and can be a long-range health hazard, particularly to the practitioner. When local anesthetic is not enough, Eldemir prefers administering codeine and valium, which "work on everybody" and pose no threat to herself.

Through the 26 hours of workshops she must attend annually to retain her license, Eldemir keeps current with state-of-the-art pain-killers, operating devices, and restorative materials. Experimenting with these innovations and rejecting those that don't work is another exciting dynamic of her profession, although "no two mouths are ever alike and no two people are ever alike, so you're never bored. And doing that fine work with your hands is so absorbing, it takes your mind away for a while from other things," such as helping her husband, a waiter at Tadich's Grill, raise their teenage boys, or managing the rental units in her property.

Eldemir can look forward to greater freedom when her kids are in college and her bank loan is paid off in 1986. With tongue in cheek between upper and lower molars, she speaks of her ultimate dream: "I want to get to where I only have to do front teeth...that's my goal." □

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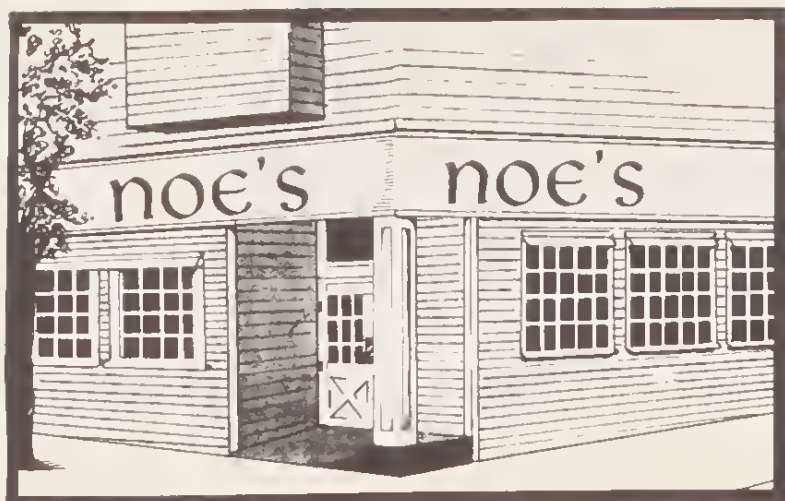
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Linda S. Nicholson, President

Across the Boards

By Jim Ford
Community Board volunteer

Editor's Note: Community Boards provide free dispute resolution by trained volunteers in 20 San Francisco neighborhoods. The Eureka/Noe Valley office is located on Church Street near 24th; telephone 821-2470. The following is an account of an actual hearing before the local board; names and certain details have been changed to protect the participants' identity.

Occasionally a resolution reached in a Community Board hearing gradually stops working. The reason may range from inadequate communication during the hearing to unrealistic goals in the resolution itself. When it does happen, the discontented parties are encouraged to return for a second hearing.

This situation occurred recently in Noe Valley. The original conflict revolved around Mrs. Rose and the grown sons of her neighbors, the Lamps, and was reported in the September 1983 *Voice*. The main issues were the noise from the young men's motorcycles and feelings of intimidation on the part of Mrs. Rose and her 90-year-old mother, who lives with her.

The intense, and frequently noisy, first hearing concluded with an agreement that appeared to satisfy everyone. Warren and Alvin Lamp agreed to restrict the hours of their riding and revving, and Mrs. Rose said she would speak to them first if bothered by their noise, rather than call the police.

When the agreement unraveled within a few months, Mrs. Rose called Community Boards again, and another hearing date was set. Considering the lengthy history of the conflict, it was no surprise that a big crowd showed up for the second round, nearly filling the Noe Valley office. Mrs. Rose attended with her daughter and a friend, and the Lamps

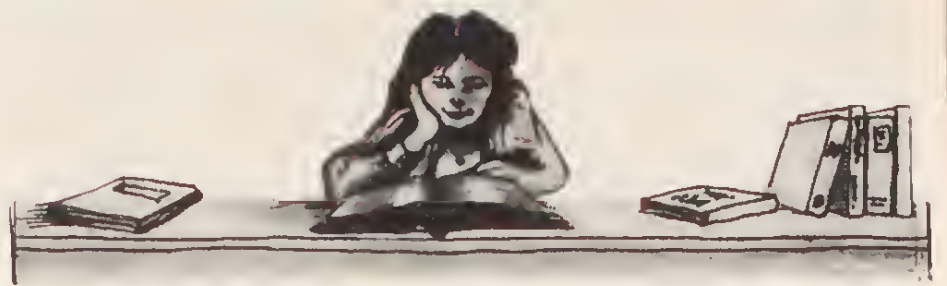
brought Alvin, five of his friends, and one of their mothers. Untangling all the snarled threads of this dispute was a task!

The second hearing began like the first, with accusations and raised voices. The issues had not changed, only intensified. The original agreement had apparently collapsed because Mrs. Rose lost her patience with the noise from the motorcycles and Warren and Alvin lost patience with Mrs. Rose's harassment. Their mother, Mrs. Lamp, felt stuck in the middle. The young men insisted they had made an effort to curtail the noise, but that nothing seemed to please Mrs. Rose. As the exchange heated up, so many aspects of the dispute emerged that the hearing became confused and unproductive.

The panelists called for a recess, conferred, and decided to focus on the major, solvable issues. When the hearing reconvened, two main points were addressed: the time and extent of motorcycle riding near Mrs. Rose's house, and Mrs. Rose's tendency to call the police whenever she heard a motorcycle.

With more effort by both parties and the panelists, a complicated but more thorough agreement was reached. It included commitments by the young men to keep their speed below 25 miles per hour, to inform Mrs. Rose when work on their bikes would be noisy, and to stop being rude to her. In turn, Mrs. Rose agreed not to contact the police, but to speak directly to Alvin and his friends and curtail her use of abusive language. She also agreed not to bother Mrs. Lamp, unless it was her last resort.

An interesting coda to the agreement was suggested by a panelist and agreed upon by all parties. They acknowledged that keeping to their joint resolution would be difficult, but agreed to persist in upholding it, despite any momentary lapses. The hearing ended on a strong and positive note. □



MORE BOOKS TO READ

Here's what's new on the shelves at the Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. You can check them out Tuesdays through Saturdays.

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The Collected Stories of Noel Coward—Noel Coward
Berlin Game—Len Deighton
Sister Age—M.F.K. Fisher
The Succession: A Novel of Elizabeth and James—George P. Garrett
McGarr and the P.M. of Belgrave Square—Bartholomew Gill
Appleby and Honeybath—Michael Innes
Pet Sematary—Stephen King
Moreta, Dragonlady of Pern—Anne McCaffrey
The Anatomy Lesson—Philip Roth
The Wicked Day—Mary Stewart
The Curse of Lono—Hunter S. Thompson

NONFICTION

Womenfolks: Growing Up Down South—Shirley Abbott
The Intimate Male: Candid Discussion About Women, Sex and Relationships—Lonnie Barbach
How to Get a Job in the San Francisco Bay Area—Janet L. Beach
The One Minute Manager—Kenneth Blanchard
American Couples: Money, Work, Sex—Philip Blumstein
Joy and Comfort Through Stretching and Relaxing—Ursula Casper

Street-Smart Investing: A Price and Value Approach to Stock Market Profits—George Clairmont
Christopher Street Reader—Michael Denny, ed.
The Intelligent Idiot's Guide to Getting the Most out of Your Home Video—Ed David
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Understanding Computer Systems—Harold Lawson
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By Mazook

SHOCK, PANIC AND DISBELIEF fell over the faces of patrons of Ver Brugge's Meat Market last month as they read the sign above the counter saying the popular meat and fish emporium was closing "temporarily." On Jan. 14 the doors were closed and white butcher paper stretched over the front windows. When the paper comes down, the Real Food Company next door will have expanded into the market's old space.

Bill Ver Brugge vows that the butcher shop will "open across the street by October" in an old Victorian next to Bell Market, despite the \$1/2 million cost of renovating the building.

Meanwhile, it looks like former Ver Brugge butcher Tom Carroll will come out of retirement and join his son Dave in taking over the counter at Drewes Market on Church Street near 29th. Current owner Phil Tomasello says it's his turn to retire.

☎☎☎

SHOCK, PANIC AND DISBELIEF fell over the faces of those assembled at Little Italy restaurant at 8:30 p.m. Saturday night, Jan. 21. That's when San Francisco Fire Department inspectors entered the now famous eatery (for the second night in a row) and announced that 17 of the 66 people inside would have to leave. Seems the restaurant had again exceeded its 49-person capacity. "They were packed in there like sardines," said Inspector Walter Batiste.

Immediately evicted was the crowd waiting for tables, but the SFFD enforcers graciously allowed several others to finish their zambione before getting the boot. One disgruntled patron was heard complaining to her husband as they hastily exited: "I told you we should never go out to eat on a Saturday night!" To compound matters, the S.F. police then appeared on the scene and ordered the hoards congregating outside to disperse because they were "blocking the sidewalk."

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and now for the RUMORS behind the news



Photo by Charles Kennard

Which way to San Francisco's friendliest neighborhood? These signs appear to disagree, but those who know and love Noe Valley never have any trouble finding their way back.

FORCED OUT of "Jimmy's Kitchen" in the back of the Valley Cavern pub was none other than Jim DeAngelis himself. Though his half-a-year-old restaurant was packin' 'em in, the business was unceremoniously shut down in December following a dispute with the bar's owners, whose identity remains unclear. Apparently the next scene in this "If you can't take the heat, stay out of the kitchen" scenario will be played out in Superior Court. Jimmy has filed suit.

☎☎☎

Karim Salma has closed his 24th Street realty office because "there was too much noise and not enough privacy." You may soon see a doctor's office at this location.

Meanwhile, Coast Savings and Loan has had a heck of a time trying to expand its 24th and Noe branch into Luha Design's old haunts next door. They bought out Luha over seven months ago, but after winding their way through a maze of applications and reviews, they just now won the necessary permits. Bank Manager Brent Taufer promises three more windows to ease the waiting time and perhaps a special merchants' window. There will also be plenty of room for you to sit around when you go visit your money.

Say goodbye to Alyce King, long-time customer relations rep at Bank of America's Noe Valley branch. She's gotten a big promotion and will be moving downtown and upstairs as a corporate liaison officer.

☎☎☎

DEPARTMENT STORES IN NOE VALLEY? Well, maybe an itty-bitty one. Abe Kass says he'll close his Meyer's Variety on 24th near Castro and rent the space to clothing store operators Red Peppers. According to Abe, who is retiring to the Sunset District after 19

years of competing with Glen Five & Ten, the Peppers people plan to install the "smallest department store in San Francisco." I thought Cutie Quilts was.

There is absolutely no truth to the rumor that Safeway Stores has bought out Bell Market. Bell management speculates that the rumor started because Bell recently lost the lease on its Pacifica store and Safeway moved in.

There is also no truth to the rumor that Dan's Gas and Diesel is buying out Getty Oil.

☎☎☎

SIGNS OF THE TIMES: Duncan Gwynn, proprietor of News on 24, says paper sales are brisk, especially the *San Jose Mercury News*, Sunday edition. "Most people are looking at the *Mercury's* want ads for computer jobs," says Duncan. The overall breakdown of daily newspaper sales at this newsstand goes like this:

<i>San Francisco Chronicle</i>	31%
<i>San Francisco Examiner</i>	20
<i>New York Times</i>	15
<i>Wall Street Journal</i>	13
<i>San Jose Mercury News</i>	8
<i>Oakland Tribune</i>	8
<i>Los Angeles Times</i>	5

Cover to Cover bookstore reports that the current best seller in the Valley is, you guessed it, George Orwell's 1984. Curiously, this epoch-making novel only reached the No. 3 spot on the best seller list when originally published in 1949.

Streetlight Records reports that the current top of their pops is the Pretenders' new album *Learning to Crawl*. While at Streetlight, say hello to Marc Weinstein, who works there when he is not drumming for The Mutants.

Local musicians may find the going tough for bookings at local jazz clubs since, other than Valencia Street's Bajones and Salonicas on Saturday nights, there are none. But guitarist

Bruce Foreman, pianist Martha Young and drummer Vince Lateano have come up with a good substitute—they've been playing in a special jazz series up at Caesar's Tahoe Hotel, located by the lake bearing its name.

Local jazz photographer Tom Copi has produced a "better than ever" collection of photos and biographies in his sixth annual "Jazz All-Stars Calendar." The calendars, featuring images of 13 jazz greats, are available at Noe Valley Music and Streetlight Records for \$6.

First place in the local exercise competition goes to Eliza Minski's Fat & Fit class at Bethany Church. This class is booming.

Another blue ribbon outfit in Noe Valley is 24th Street's Holy Bagel. Last month's issue of *San Francisco Magazine* named it the best of six bagelries in S.F.

☎☎☎

Parking in downtown Noe Valley has taken on the character of a demolition derby as assertiveness-trained drivers jockey for any spot they can find. The Noe Valley Bureau of Investigation recently spotted a number of hogus tickets on car windshields. A typical example:

This is not a ticket, but if it were within my power, you would receive two. Because of your Bull Headed, inconsiderate, feeble attempt at parking, you have taken enough room for a 20 mule team, 2 elephants, 1 goat, and a safari of pygmies from the African Interior.

The reason for giving you this is so that in the future you may think of someone else, other than yourself. Besides I don't like domineering, egotistical or simple minded drivers and you probably fit into one of these categories.

I sign off wishing you an early transmission failure (on the expressway at about 4:30 p.m.). Also may the fleas of a thousand horses' asses infect your armpits.

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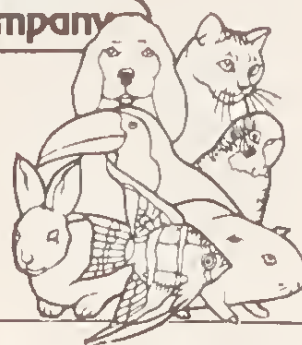
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FEB 15-29 WEDDING PARTY sublet for visiting family. Prefer Noe Valley/Diamond Heights to sleep 4/5. Price negotiable. 285-0623 (please leave message).

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IS HYPNOSIS FOR YOU? To find out if you can be hypnotized, and to discuss your particular concern, call hypnotherapist Sally Smith at 861-5268.

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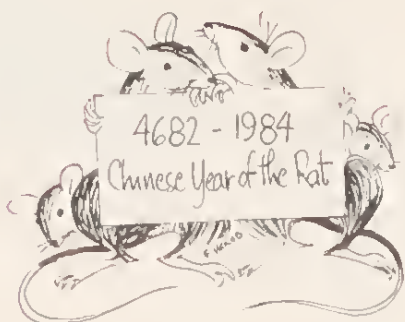
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CALENDAR

FEBRUARY



FEB. 1: OPEN READING sponsored by the National Writers' Union. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 6:45 p.m. sign-up; 7 p.m. readings begin. 641-8344 or 285-2788

FEB. 1-25: Seven artists exhibit their "NEW DIMENSIONS IN REALISM" at Galeria de la Raza/Studio 24, 2851 24th St. Gallery hours: Tues. - Sat., 1 - 6 p.m. 826-8009

FEB. 1-29: GALLERY SANCHEZ presents "Stories and Visions" with work by artists Michael Anderton, Kit Cameron, Consuelo Kurz and Liag Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. Gallery hours 2 - 5 p.m., Mon. - Fri. 282-2317

FEB. 2: Ongoing Thursday lecture/discussion of current affairs "WHAT'S BEHIND THE NEWS?" with Dr. Mark Sharron of Mission Community College. Free. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 1:30 p.m.

FEB. 2: Ongoing PREGNANCY EXERCISE class at Bethany Methodist Church, 1268 Sanchez St. 6 - 7 p.m. 824-2324

FEB. 2 - MARCH 1: Thursday evening THEATRE GAMES workshop. Improvisation techniques for teachers, therapists, performers, directors and people of all ages and interests. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 8 p.m. 641-7580

FEB. 3, 4: L.A. gay songwriter LEROY DYSART sings selections from his new album, *We Are Everywhere*. Valencia Rose, 766 Valencia St. 8 p.m. both nights. 863-3863

FEB. 3, 10, 17 & 24: NOE VALLEY CINEMA presents *A Sailor Made Man* and *Grandma's Boy* (Feb. 3), *Sleuth* (Feb. 10), *Rose and Ring* and other films made by Lotte Reinger and her students (Feb. 17), and *High Noon* (Feb. 24). Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 929-0382

FEB. 3-25: Lanford Wilson's *BALMIN GILEAD* directed by David Alphin. Valencia Rose, 766 Valencia St. Fri. and Sat. nights, 12 midnight. 863-3863



FEB. 4: OPERATIF—performances from Rossini's "The Italian Girl in Algiers," Offenbach's "The Tales of Hoffman," Verdi's "La Traviata," and Mozart's "The Marriage of Figaro." Community Music Center, 544 Capp St. 8 p.m. 647-6015

FEB. 4: DANCE CONCERT featuring the middle eastern bands Jazayer and Blue Nile, plus Egyptian dancer Suhaila Salimpour. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 7:30 p.m. 456-3849 or 282-2317

FEB. 5: Bebopper DAVID WATSON sings a tribute to Eddie Jefferson at Bajone's, 1062 Valencia St. 5 - 8 p.m.

FEB. 5, 12, 19 & 26: Humanistic/Transpersonal Psychology FILM FESTIVAL. Carl Rogers (Feb. 5); Abraham Maslow (Feb. 12); Elizabeth Kubler-Ross (Feb. 19); Alan Watts (Feb. 26). Roxie Theater, 16th near Valencia St. Noon. 221-9227

FEB. 5, 12, 19 & 26: SUNDAY VIDEO SHOWS. *Rebel Without a Cause* (Feb. 5), *My Brilliant Career* (Feb. 12), *Lord of the Rings* (Feb. 19), *Network* (Feb. 26). Mission Library, 3359 24th St. 2 p.m.

FEB. 6: Ongoing HEALTHY COOKING CLASSES with Stephanie Turner, dietician and professional cook. Call 752-4826 for dates and times of "The Vegetarian Alternative," a series on tofu, pasta and seafood. Chuck's Valley Fireside Cafe, 525 Castro St.

FEB. 6: Bassist DAVID FRIESEN teams up with guitarist John Stowell and drummer Eddie Moore at Bajone's, 1062 Valencia St. 9 p.m.

FEB. 6: PUPPET SHOW for pre-school children by the Haight St. Puppet Theater. Mission Library, 3359 24th St. 3 p.m. 824-2810.

FEB. 6, 13, 20 & 27: Feldenkrais Method/AWARENESS THROUGH MOVEMENT classes with Judy Casson and Ellen Goldstone. Bethany Church, 1268 Sanchez St. 4:15 - 5:15 p.m. 333-6644 or 282-4762

FEB. 7: Meeting for the ODESSA-SAN FRANCISCO PAIRING PROJECT—a community effort to improve Soviet-American relations. St. Paul's High School 317 29th St. 7:30 p.m. 821-2861 or 285-7509

FEB. 7, 21 & 28: TUESDAY VIDEO SHOWS FOR CHILDREN. *Star Wars* (Feb. 7), *Time Bandits* (Feb. 21), *Lord of the Rings* (Feb. 28). Mission Library, 3359 24th St. 3 p.m.

FEB. 8: MIKE WEISS, author of *Double Play: The San Francisco City Hall Killings*, presents his just-published work. Modern Times Bookstore, 968 Valencia St. 5 p.m. 282-9246

FEB. 8: FRIENDS OF NOE VALLEY meeting. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 8:15 p.m. 550-8692

FEB. 8: FILMS FOR CHILDREN. Mission Library, 3359 24th St. Pre-schoolers 10 & 11 a.m., 6 and up 3:30 p.m. 824-2810

FEB. 10: SWINGSHIFT, an all-women jazz band, returns to Valencia Rose at 8 p.m., followed by FEMPROV and MARGA GOMEZ comedy at 10 p.m. (Femprov also Feb. 17). 766 Valencia St. 863-3863

FEB. 10: FREEDOM SONG NETWORK. Songswap. New Space Gallery, 762 Valencia St. 848-5622

FEB. 11: A one-day conference titled "LESBIANS CHOOSING CHILDREN: A Legal, Social and Medical Look at Conception by Donor Insemination." Cole Hall, UCSF, 513 Parnassus, 2nd floor. 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. 621-0675

FEB. 12: Prolific left feminist LILIAN S. ROBINSON joins poet/playwright DOUBLAS MICHAEL MASSING for an evening of poetry. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 7:30 p.m. 652-4401, ext. 626.

FEB. 13: "DRAWING RIGHT SIDE BRAIN," five classes, 7 - 9 p.m. Also, "Color Interaction and Psychology" in five classes starting Feb. 14, 7 - 9 p.m. Sharron, 285-3969

FEB. 13: Drummer/singer GRADY TATE with Babatunde on percussion and Mark Little on piano. Bajone's, 1062 Valencia St. 9 p.m.

FEB. 14: RANK & FILE COALITION general membership meeting. Rank & File Center, 1781 Church St. 7:30 p.m. 824-6279.



FEB. 14: Come and make VALENTINES at the Mission Library, 3359 24th St. 3:30 p.m.

FEB. 14: Begins six-week RELOCATION WORKSHOP, support offered to women new to Bay Area. Alumnae Resources, 965 Mission St., Suite 430. 2 - 4:30 p.m. 546-7220

FEB. 14: FICTION WRITERS' OPEN READING. Modern Times Bookstore, 968 Valencia St. 8 p.m. 282-9246

FEB. 14, 15, 28, 29: "THE LEGEND OF LILY OVERSTREET," a multi-media performance piece by Rhodessa Jones and Idris Ackamoor. Valencia Rose, 766 Valencia St. 8 p.m. 863-3863

FEB. 15: VIDA GALLERY presents "Visions of Paradise, Contemporary Folk Artists of the United States," a series of five short films by local filmmakers Allie Light and Irving Saraf. Women's Building, 3543 18th St. 8 p.m. 864-VIDA.

FEB. 16-25: Music and comedy duo TERRY BAUM and MARGO TUFO premiere at Valencia Rose, 766 Valencia St. Thurs. - Sat., 8 p.m. 863-3863.

FEB. 17: HOLLY TANNEN, traditional singer and dulcimer player, performs English and Welsh ritual and ceremonial music. Modern Times Bookstore, 968 Valencia St. 8 p.m. 282-9246

FEB. 18: MALCOLM X, a feature length documentary film. New College, 777 Valencia St. 7:30 p.m. 561-9040

FEB. 18: THREE FILMS BY WOMEN—*Susana* by Susana Blaustein, *Greta's Girls* and *Despues Del Terremoto* by Lourdes Portillo and Nina Serrano. Studio W, 3137 22nd St. 7:30 & 9:30 p.m. 641-9299

FEB. 19: CONCERT with performances by Judith Hubbell, soprano, Julie Feves, bassoon, and Emily Wong, piano. Community Music Center, 544 Capp St. 4:30 p.m. 647-6015

FEB. 20: An evening with guitarist EDDIE DURAN. Bajone's, 1062 Valencia St. 9 p.m.

FEB. 22: HURRY TOMORROW—a film exploring the effects of the over-use of mind-controlling drugs. Modern Times Bookstore, 968 Valencia St. 7:30 p.m. 282-9246

FEB. 23: BEDTIME STORY HOUR for younger children. Mission Library, 3359 24th St. 7 p.m.

FEB. 25: GLAUCOMA SCREENING CLINIC. District Health Center No. 1, 3850 17th St. To make an appointment, call 558-3905

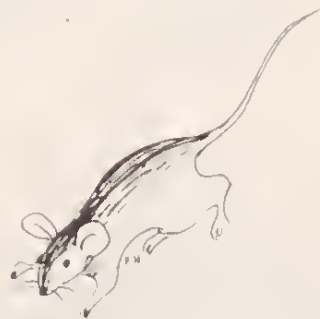
FEB. 26: Soprano EILEEN WILLIAMS with pianist KERRI-LYN RENSHAW present music by Purcell, Faure, Strauss and American composers. Community Music Center, 544 Capp St. 3 p.m. 647-6015

FEB. 26: RUNNING THE ANGRY AMERICAN RIVER RACE, a playreading presented by Lilith, a women's theatre. Valencia Rose, 766 Valencia St. 7:30 p.m. 861-4221

FEB. 27: Bajone's features the BOBBY HUTCHERSON QUARTET. 1062 Valencia St. 9 p.m.

FEB. 26: Fifth Annual NOE VALLEY HISTORY FESTIVAL. Reminiscing, music, socializing. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 1 - 4 p.m.

FEB. 26: MICHAEL PALMER and CARLA HARRYMAN present an evening of language poetry. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 7:30 p.m. 652-4401, ext. 626



The Scoop on CALENDAR

Please send Calendar items before the 15th day of the month preceding month of issue to the *Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Items are published on a space-available basis, with Noe Valley neighborhood events receiving priority.

ZIPPY

"MAGIC MOMENTS"

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